

389 East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Hanaford School Cafeteria

200 Middle Road

East Greenwich, RI 02818

ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by the Chair, Jean Ann Guliano. Those in attendance were: Anne Palumbo - Vice Chair; Susan Records, Deidre Gifford, Paul Martin Robert Durant, Mary Ellen Winters, as well as Superintendent of Schools Dr. Victor Mercurio, and Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

I. Public Comments-There were no public comments.

II. Recognitions-The following students were recognized for their achievements:

1. Gauri Ganesh, Cole student, for being selected to Junior All State Orchestra

2. Andrew Miner, Cole student, for being selected to Honor's Band for tenor saxophone

3. Senior All State Band students from EGHS: Dan Caron, Ben Pallant, Miriam Pallant

4. Junior All State Band students: Mary O'Toole, Leah Schoer

5. Senior All State Orchestra: Miriam Scheff, Aidan Hutt, Josh

Leveillee, Myles McLevedge

6. Senior All State Jazz Ensemble: Myles McLevedge

7. Wendy's Heisman Award Winners from East Greenwich High School: Jenna Denice, and Brian Doyle are recognized for scholarship, athletics and citizenship. Both students moved on to the state finalist positions as a result.

8. Robert Corr, was recognized for his 25 years of coaching. It was noted that he has continued the long tradition for East Greenwich Football. Mr. Corr stated that it was an honor to serve.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio stated that the second part of the H1N1 Clinics will take place in the next few weeks. He will send out an Alert Now message. The Education Commissioner will be in the district on January 19th to speak about RIDE's Initiatives. It is open to the entire district. The School Committee meeting will begin at 5:30 on January 19th in the high school library.

The RFQ for the consultant for the CPT Program closes on Friday.

IV. Approval of Minutes-November 3, November 9, and November 17th Executive Sessions and December 1 and 15, 2009 Regular and Executive Sessions. The November 17th Executive Session meetings were not approved. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Gifford to approve the minutes for November 3, November 9, and December 1 and December 15th regular and executive sessions. Mr. Durant abstained from voting on the December 1st meeting, and Mr. Martin abstained from voting on the December 1 and December 15th meetings.

V. Action Items

a. Resignation

1. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the resignation of Tara McAuliffe, Principal of Meadowbrook Farms School effective 1-5-10. The Committee stated that they appreciated her service. Dr. Mercurio stated that Mr. Richard Maresca as Interim Principal. He is available until March 1st. The principal position will be posted immediately. Mr. Martin stated that it is tragic that she decided to leave at this time. Dr. Mercurio noted that he has been in touch with the Meadowbrook Farms PTG President to let her know there will be an evening forum. He noted that he will only move forward with a recommendation when they have a good fit.

390

b. First Reading of Suspension Policy

Mr. Robert Houghtaling, the school and town's Drug and Substance Abuse Counselor, was present at the meeting. There is a concern about the disclosure of a suspension to anyone. It was noted that Assistant Principals are not at liberty to disclose suspensions. Mr. Houghtaling stated that the intent is to make sure kids don't fall through the cracks. Dr. Mercurio stated that students who are suspended have due process rights. Tonight will be the first reading of this policy. Mrs. Gifford will re-write the policy and send out to the parties involved. She will also speak to our legal counsel.

c. Request that high school students be allowed to leave after taking

their mid-term exams on January 21, 22, 25, 26, 2010. Dr. Mercurio stated that the high school is looking to conduct mid-terms the same as finals. The bus company is able to do these runs if the weather is bad. Mrs. Nota stated that all classes have mid-term exams. Mr. Martin stated that if students are allowed to leave early, they need to leave school grounds. Mrs. Nota stated that students are having trouble managing their time because of seven classes and no study halls. She did state that the time in school for those days is in accordance with State regulations. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the schedule for high school students during mid-term exams. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Out-of-State Field trip to Connecticut on June 3, 2010 for Grade 4 students at Eldredge School-Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the trip to Connecticut. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Out-of-State Field trip to MA for high school students on May 21, 2010-Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the trip to MA for high school students. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Race to the Top Memorandum of Agreement-Dr. Mercurio stated that this is an aggressive and highly competitive grant. A district needs to sign off the document. It was noted that the Commissioner is writing this grant and major components of this proposal are reflected in the Strategic Plan. We are a Level II district. Level I districts are those that need progressive support and intervention. In East Greenwich, we have more latitude a Level 2 district. Dr.

Mercurio spoke to our teachers' union leadership and he will not step outside the boundaries of the union agreement. He stated that the money will be to support what are doing but we need to be able to sustain the programs long term. Mrs. Guliano stated that it isn't a lot of money for us but it gives us a place at the table. Dr. Mercurio's recommendation is to execute the memorandum of understanding. Mrs. Gifford stated that we will do what we can to support this and the union agreement or disagreement shouldn't stop us from signing this memorandum. Dr. Mercurio stated that this is an opportunity to look at virtual learning at the high school. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters that East Greenwich participate and allow the School Committee Chair and Superintendent to execute the Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding as written. The motion passed unanimously.

g. Field Turf Action-This item is tabled.

VI. Discussion Items

a. Fields Project Update-The punch list is being worked on.

b. UCOA Update-emails between the Town and School Department have indicated we are moving forward.

c. FY 2010 Budget Revisions and FY 2011 Budgeting Process Update-A budget timeline was distributed and the 'school Committee meeting scheduled for June 8th has been changed to June 15th because of the

d. Financial Town meeting of June 8th. Department Chairs only need to be present at budget meetings if their expenditures are out of the ordinary and they don't seem to be at the high school. Mrs. Gifford

stated it is the School Committee's responsibility to make sure the schools are funded.

Dr. Mercurio spoke about the reductions for the 2010 budget which total \$192,000.

e. School Committee Scholarship-Mr. Martin stated that he donated his buy back to set up a scholarship for 2011 for students going to URI, CCRI and RIC. He noted that two School Committee members and three members from the high school scholarship committee will be on the committee. A personal essay as well as good academic standing and significant financial need will be required.

391

f. Enrollment-NESDEC-Dr. Mercurio reported that we are seeing an increase in students but if this changes we need a revised projection from NESDEC.

g. Aramark Update-Attorney Oliverio has worked on contract language and will forward it to the Aramark attorneys.

VIII. School Committee Concerns –The School Committee would like to combine two school budget meetings. Mr. Martin feels we should publish the School Committee's phone numbers on our website. We should also look into the athletic budget bus transportation.

IX. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani
Secretary